

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An improved tong positioning apparatus which includes a base positionable on the rig floor; a hydraulic cylinder positioned on the base, having a first end engageable to a rear support member and a second end engageable to a pivotal moment arm; a forward shock attachment arm engaged at a first end to one of three attachment points on the moment arm, and a second end which attaches to a tong frame attachment point on the tong. The forward shock attachment arm includes a pair of shock absorbers engaged along its length to provide a smooth, non-jerking motion both vertically and horizontally in moving the power tong. The tong positioning apparatus is designed to be remotely operated by hydraulic, air, air over hydraulics, electronically, by a single operator. There is further provided a plurality of attachment points on the rear support member, and a plurality of pivot points for the moment arm, to allow for various vertical and horizontal positioning of the tong during makeup and breakup of pipe on the rig floor. Further, the apparatus includes a safety shield system to insure the workers are protected from inadvertent contact with moving parts of the apparatus. Further, the apparatus includes a pipe section guide, digital or VHS video taping capability and positioning and alignment system to further align the upper tong and lower tong in relation to the pipe sections when mating with the jaw - die of the upper tong and the jaw - die combination of the lower tong. Further to the safety of the deck members, the tong operator controls the operation of the forward door of the upper tong during the torque process.

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